Epidemics in Kerala

655. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of viral hepatitis and fever epidemic cases have been noticed in Kerala in the recent past;

(b) if so, the number of persons died, so far;

(c) whether any Central team has been sent to Kerala to find out the reasons for the disease; and

(d) the nature of assistance provided to the State by the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Sporadic outbreaks of chickungunya have been reported from Kerala since July, 2006. However, no death due to chickungunya has been reported. The cases of dengue fever have also been reported in Kerala in recent past and 5 deaths in 2006 and 8 deaths in 2007 (till 12th August) have been reported due to dengue.

The State of Kerala has also reported 12720 cases and 12 deaths due to Viral Hepatitis during 2006.

(c) Four Central teams have been sent to Kerala for investigation of the outbreak during the period from May, 2007 to July, 2007. The teams observed that the fever cases were mainly due to chickungunya. The occurrence of the disease is related to climatic conditions such as rainfall, temperature and humidity and high vector density.

(d) Under National Vector Borne Diseases Control Programme (NVBDCP) implemented by Government of India, regular logistics like adulticides and larvicides are supplied to the State. In addition, an amount of Rs. 220.5 lakhs was released to Kerala during 2006-07 as emergency package for prevention and control of Chickungunya towards the purchase of fogging machines, Pyrethrum extract, Insecticide treated bednets etc. An amount of Rs. 403.90 lakhs has been allotted as emergency package for Kerala during 2007-08 also. Technical guidance has also been provided to Kerala for diagnostic facilities.

To strengthen surveillance activities and to promote early detection of outbreak and institute appropriate action for prevention and control of epidemic and other diseases, an Integrated Disease Surveillance Project is in existence since 2004. The programme is being implemented in phased manner and Kerala has already been covered in Phase-I of the project.

Violation of conditions by private medical institutions

†656. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of Medical/Dental Colleges of private sector in the country are being run without fulfilling conditions of high criteria;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.